

OSS Licenses

The screenshot displays the University of Colorado Technology Transfer Office website. The header includes the university logo and name, along with campus locations: BOULDER | COLORADO SPRINGS | DENVER | ANSCHUTZ MEDICAL CAMPUS. The main navigation bar lists: About Us, For Investigators, Business Community, Proof of Concept Programs, Available Technologies, Media, and Contact Us. A left sidebar contains a menu with links: Licensing Process, The Start-up Process, The Software Process (highlighted), The MTA Process, The CDA Process, Policies, Forms and Documents, Tax Information, Resources, and FAQs. Below the menu is a search box with a 'Search' button and a magnifying glass icon. The main content area is titled 'The Software Process' and contains several sections: 'Copyright Notice' (explaining the need for formal registration and providing the notice text), 'Licensing Strategy' (discussing end-goals and providing a link to a bulletin), 'Open Source and Free Software' (explaining license varieties and providing a link to a working with open source software bulletin), 'Commercial Licenses' (offering custom license agreements), and 'Managing Projects' (discussing copyright management and royalty distribution). The footer contains links for Tech Transfer Home, University of Colorado Homepage, and Contact Us, along with the office name and copyright notice for the University of Colorado Board of Regents.

The screenshot shows the website for Indiana University Research & Technology Corporation. The header includes the IU logo, navigation links for 'Find People', 'IURTC', and 'IU', and a search bar. The main navigation menu has tabs for 'ABOUT', 'PROCESS', 'POLICIES', 'COLLABORATION', and 'FORMS'. The 'PROCESS' tab is selected, and the page title is 'Software Licensing'. A sidebar on the left lists 'Technology Commercialization', 'Start-Up Company', and 'Software Licensing'. The main content area features a large 'PROCESS' heading and a sub-heading 'Software Licensing'. A callout box asks 'QUESTIONS?' and provides contact information for those interested in marketing software commercially. The text explains two approaches to software licensing: commercial and open source. It details the commercialization process, including the role of IURTC and the need to assess commercial potential. It also discusses open source licensing, noting that disclosure to IURTC is not necessary but that departmental obligations must be considered. Finally, it lists open source resources at Indiana University, specifically the Kuali and Sakai Foundations.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY Find People IURTC IU Search GO

Indiana University Research & Technology Corporation

FACULTY INDUSTRY COMMUNITY

ABOUT PROCESS POLICIES COLLABORATION FORMS

IURTC » Process » Software Licensing

Technology Commercialization

Start-Up Company

Software Licensing

PROCESS

Software Licensing

QUESTIONS?

If you are interested in marketing your software commercially, contact us.

If you are a software developer, there are traditionally two approaches to making your software available to others: releasing your work commercially or sharing it via open source licensing.

Commercial Software

IURTC has helped several clients, including ANGEL Learning and Optiform, successfully market software solutions.

If you are interested in assessing the commercial potential of your software, we invite you to begin the technology commercialization process.

It is also sometimes possible to combine commercial development with open source sharing. Contact us if you would like to pursue that option.

Open Source Licensing

If you are not interested in commercializing your software, it is not necessary to disclose your discovery to IURTC nor to obtain our permission to explore open source options.

However, you will need to contact your department to determine any obligations you may have to release software under a particular open source license. These may include requirements in grants or pre-existing open source licenses attached to any software you have incorporated into your work. Your department can help you with these issues.

Open Source Resources at Indiana University

In the United States, the Open Source Initiative (OSI) promotes open source technologies and offers certification for open source licenses and software. Although not legally required, this certification indicates that a license or product complies with OSI's definition of open source.

Two open source communities supported by several universities, including Indiana University, are:

- Kuali Foundation, which supports the development and maintenance of open source administrative software from financial management tools to research administration.
- Sakai Foundation, which supports development of open source collaboration and learning environments that support teaching and group collaboration, from scheduling to wikis to social media.

The screenshot shows the Open Source Initiative website. At the top left is the logo, a green circle with a white 'O' shape inside, and the text 'open source initiative'. To the right of the logo is the title 'Open Source Initiative' in white text on a green background. Below the logo and title is a navigation bar with a 'Home' link. The main content area is divided into a left sidebar and a main column. The sidebar contains a search bar with the text 'Search this site:' and a 'Search' button. Below the search bar is a 'Navigation' section with a list of links: 'About the OSI', 'The Open Source Definition', 'Open Source Licenses' (with sub-links for 'Licenses by Category' and 'Licenses by Name'), 'Working Groups', 'FAQ', 'Trademark and Logo Usage', 'Open Standards', 'Open Source Education', 'Mailing lists', 'Getting Help', 'Donate to the OSI', 'OSI Individual Membership', 'OSI Store', 'OSI Affiliate Membership', 'Contact OSI', 'Terms of Service', and 'OSI Corporate Sponsors'. The main column has a 'Home' link at the top. Below that is the section 'Open Source Licenses'. Underneath is 'About Open Source Licenses', which explains that open source licenses comply with the Open Source Definition and must go through the OSI's license review process. This is followed by 'Popular Licenses', which lists several OSI-approved licenses: Apache License 2.0, BSD 3-Clause "New" or "Revised" license, BSD 2-Clause "Simplified" or "FreeBSD" license, GNU General Public License (GPL), GNU Library or "Lesser" General Public License (LGPL), MIT license, Mozilla Public License 2.0, Common Development and Distribution License, and Eclipse Public License. Next is 'All Approved Licenses', which states that many other licenses are also OSI-approved but fall into other categories, and provides links to 'sorted by name (alphabetical)' and 'sorted by category'. The final section is 'Questions?', which mentions the OSI's FAQ and lists questions such as 'Can Open Source software be used for commercial purposes?', 'What is "free software" and is it the same as "open source"?', 'What is "copyleft"? Is it the same as "open source"?', and 'What is a "permissive" Open Source license?'.

- ❶ Which Open Source license should I choose to release my software under?
- ❷ Is *<SOME PROGRAM>* Open Source?
- ❸ Can I call my program "Open Source" even if I don't use an approved license?
- ❹ Is *<SOME LICENSE>* an Open Source license, even if it is not listed on your web site?

For more information about open source licenses and in particular about the Open Source Initiative's approval process, see:

- ❶ [The Open Source Definition \(annotated version\)](#)
- ❷ [The OSI License Review Process](#)
- ❸ [Information on License Proliferation and the 2006 License Proliferation Report](#)

Help shape the future of the Open Source Initiative...
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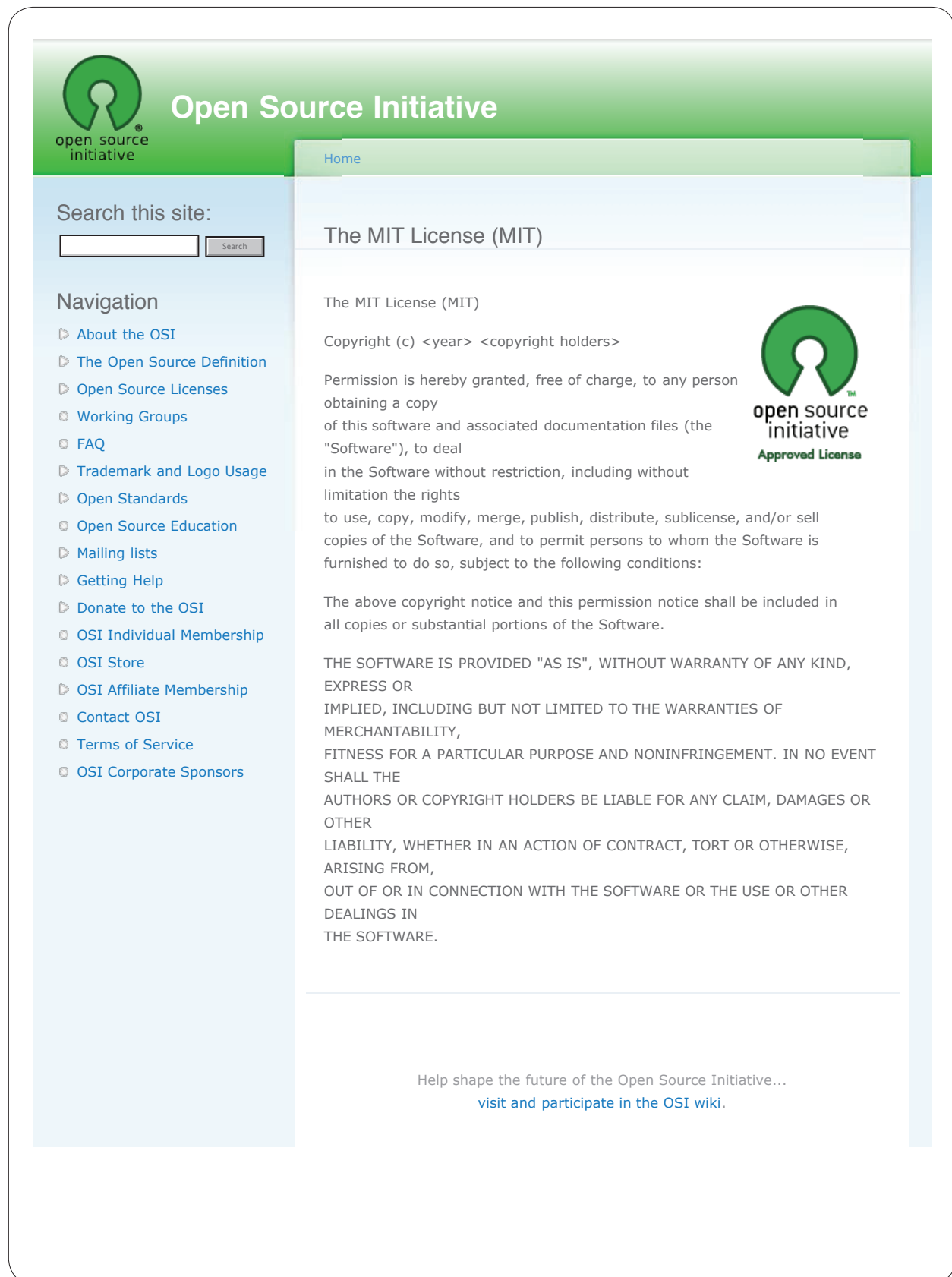
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